

**RAFA Bexhill Branch & Club Charity No.263248**

Royal Air Forces Association

Bexhill on Sea Branch

The Albatross Club

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*A man walks out to the street and hails a cab passing by. He gets into the cab and the driver says, ' Perfect timing. Your just like Frank'. 'Who?' asks the passenger. 'Frank Feldman. He's a guy who did everything right all the time, like me coming along when you needed a cab, things happened to Frank just like that all the time.' 'There are always some clouds over everybody!' says the passenger. ' Not Frank Feldman. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand slam at tennis. He could golf with the Pro's. He sang like an opera baritone, and danced like a Broadway star, and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy.' **Passenger:** 'Sounds like he was something really special.' **Cabbie;** ' There's more He had a memory like a computer. He remembered every-bodies birthday. He knew about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse and the whole street blacks out. But Frank Feldman, could do everything right.' **Passenger:** ' Wow, some guy then.' **Cabbie;** 'He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and how to avoid traffic jams. Not like me I always get stuck in them. But Frank he never made a mistake, and he knew how to treat a woman, and make her feel good. He would never answer her back, even if she was in the wrong: and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished to. He was a perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Frank Feldman.' **Passenger:** 'An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?'. **Cabbie;** ' Well... I never actually met Frank. He died and I married his Widow'.*

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**Copy for next issue to reach me by Feb 12th John Leahy (editor)**

# The Albatross

**RAFA Bexhill Branch & Club Charity No.263248**

## Message From Branch Chairman

This being the last newsletter of the year, a time to look both backwards and forwards. 2011 was a good year for Bexhill RAFA; starting with the " Winter Fair" for the Wings appeal in January, followed by some well supported events in the club, not least the trip to the Royal Hospital at Chelsea. Our annual lunch in May went well but the attendance was down on last year. The Battle of Britain events in July and September were successful thanks to the dedicated work of the helpers and ATC. November saw a terrific turn out for the Remembrance Day and the good weather was a bonus. Followed by the beer Fest in the club. After you receive this newsletter we shall be on the verge of the Carol singing in the club on the 16th December. Next year there will be another Group Holiday at Princess Marina House starting on 7th February for one week, places are limited so keep an eye on the notice board for the booking sheet. As I have said before, it would be nice if some of you who are not on the committees shared some of your thoughts on what you would like to see by way of entertainment in the club, including outings to other places. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members and staff who have worked so hard during 2011 to keep the Branch and Club up and running. It take a lot of time and effort, week in and week out, to ensure that the entertainment and services that go with a healthy & happy RAFA experience are maintained. Do remember that there are always opportunities for new blood on the committees of both Club and Branch. Don't be put off simply because you have no experience of such things — believe me you will soon learn how to put your own skills and experience to good use for the RAFA. I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. **Pat O'brien Branch Chairman & Chief Welfare Officer.**

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**Dec 2011/ Jan / Feb 2012**



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**Regular Events**

2nd Monday Air Crew Association	11.00
Every Monday Keep Fit	14.30
Tuesday & Friday Table Tennis	11.00
4th Tuesday Creole Jazz Night	20.00
1st Wednesday Coffee Morning	10.30
2nd Wednesday Speakers Corner	10.30
3rd Thursday Craft Morning	11.00
4th Thursday Monthly Walk	10 00
Meet at Club, then drive to start of walk.	
1st Friday Quiz Night	20.00
1st & 2nd Saturday (Usually Bingo)	20.00
2nd & 3rd Friday Crib Night	19.45

**Check notice board for variations and details of other activities. Meat Raffles** are held on Friday lunch times, tickets are available at the bar.

Both the **Lottery Bonus Ball and Sunday Draw** are displayed on the notice board by the bar. Place your selection on them and put your money in an envelope and place it in the appropriate boxes.

**Beer Fest and CAMRA awards**

The Club was selected as 2011 CAMRA (Campaign For Real Ale) club of the year. 3 awards were presented to Geoff Wentworth, our club Steward. The 1st was the Sussex Club of the year. 2nd, Sussex & Surrey Club of the year. 3rd, South East England Club of the year. We are in the top 16 CAMRA Clubs in Britain. A 2 day beer fest was held in November with 10 real ales from around the country. For the first one, it was a success, not all the ale was drunk but it will be

**Club Opening Times****Mon –Sat Morning & Lunch Time**

11.00 to 14.30

“ “ **Evenings** 19.00 to 23.00 #**Sunday PM** 12.00 to 14.00.

# Closed Thursday &amp; Sunday Evenings.

**Lunch** is served Monday to Friday between 12.00 & 1.30. Our chef Natalie Appleton has been serving some delicious meals, and her Wednesday roast lunches have to be seen to be believed, try them for yourselves if you can get in.

The kitchen has been refurbished at a considerable cost. The Branch contributed to wards this cost, for which we are most grateful. We hope to recover some Money from the Stewards table, so please keep bringing in your unwanted brick-a-brac. All contributions gratefully accepted. We thank Mary Moxam for her continuing support with eggs and other healthy locally, produced products.

sold over the bar in the next few weeks. Geoff has worked very hard to keep the club an ongoing concern, as have the club committee. The introduction of real ales has increased the sale of beer three fold. Which is good for the club. The committee has allowed CAMRA members to use the club on production of their membership card and a small charge. Some have become club members, they say that we are a very friendly club and are always made welcome. Well done Geoff

**Forthcoming Events**

On the 16th December we shall be holding our annual Carol Service at the club. It will be at 7.30 and our Padre Rev Stephen Huggins will lead the singing please show your support.

The usual Swing night will be on the third Tuesday in December as the forth Tuesday is a bank holiday so will be on the 20th December.

Saturday 31st December will be a New Years Eve Party which will be an American Supper, so bring your own plate of something to share.

January 21st we will be holding our traditional Burns Night with Tatties & Neaps and Haggis or Sausage if you prefer February 14th Valentine's Day. To be Arranged. See notice board.

*Len Oliver Club Chairman*

**Thanks from our Wings Coordinator Wendy Renshaw**

Another year has flown by and although there was disappointment, when the President's Band concert had to be cancelled in June because the Musical Director had to go into hospital, we enjoyed an excellent concert by the Little Common Royal British Legion Band in October. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped throughout the year with two fairs, Sunday weekly Draws and all the collections outside stores and in the streets. Without your help the fundraising for Wings would not be possi-

ble We are making a few changes next year to help the Club and Branch. The Sunday draw will be for Club funds and the fairs will be for Club & Branch funds. Street and store collections will continue to be for Wings. We are planning one large event next year to raise funds for Wings, this will be on Sunday 3rd June at the De La Warr Pavilion to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We hope to have the Squadronaires Band but this has not yet been confirmed. We hope to know more in December. The Seasons Greetings to you all. *Wendy Renshaw Wings organiser*

**Membership Renewal**

You will find your membership renewal forms in this edition of the magazine. Could you please return them with your subscription and last years club card as soon as possible to enable me to get the new ones back to you as I have over 400 to process. *Elizabeth Leahy Membership Sec'.*

**Speakers Corner**

The December speaker is Liz O'Brien who will be giving her memories of "What is was like being an Officers Wife" The January talk will be by Peter Hobbs his subject is "R H Mitchell inventor of the Super-marine aero plane." The Speaker for February has not been arranged if you have any suggestions contact David Starkey